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Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2009 3:34 PM
To: Chairman.Fleming; ViceChairman.Howard; Commissioner.Wright; Chairman.Hamilton; Commissioner.Mitchell; Commissioner.Whitfield; hsp@schouse.org; sju@scsenate.org
Cc: Satterthwaite, Michelle L
Subject: NO to SafeLink

When I opened The State Newspaper on Monday November 2nd, I was shocked at the ad for the SafeLink program. I am by no means biased based on income or class, but what I do have a problem with is that people receiving public assistance often have "nicer cars, name brand clothing, cell phones and gold jewelry that the working class citizen cannot afford" at the taxpayers of this state's expense. If you can afford these non-essentials there is no reason you should be on public assistance. There are too many citizens of this state who abuse government assistance. For too many of them it is not a temporary help, but a free ride. I know plenty of people who struggle to make ends meet and only have what they need, and they do so without the assistance of the state. For example my Mother-In Law takes care of a paraplegic husband, has two adopted sons (ages 12 & 15), and works a full time job making only eight dollars an hour. She is 50+ years old and does not receive any help from the government. She cannot afford luxuries but she provides for her family. Another thing that bothers me is that I am drug tested randomly as a condition of my employment, so I can pay taxes to fund these government programs, which the recipients have only to apply for and receive. If I have to be screened I feel they should be also, or denied government benefits of any kind. Emergency calls can be placed from any phone. Our church has donated used cell phones to sister care, just for the purpose of these individuals having access to call 911. I applaud your decision to say NO to the SafeLink program. I cannot believe that this program was advertised as free for the state. Nothing is free and it will cost someone. We really don't need another free program for the people of this state to abuse. I appreciate your time and please continue to serve "ALL" of the people who reside in this great state.

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'The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; They just make the most of anything'